

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, claims 9-10 are canceled. Claims 1-8 are currently pending.

Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,363,420 to Andrews ("Andrews"). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrews in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,588,105 to Schmitz et al. Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrews in view of EP 631,923 to Willibald. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites that the engaging section has a surrounding sealing lip, which forms a latching connection with an edge of the hole in the vehicle body, and a further sealing lip, which engages the opposite side of the edge of the hole in the vehicle body. Andrews does not disclose or suggest this subject matter.

Andrews teaches a plug 1 for sealing an aperture 18 in a panel 17 having a flange portion 3 with an under surface adapted to overlie an upper surface region of the panel 17 adjacent the aperture 18. A body 15 of sealant material contacts the undersurface of the flange portion 3. The plug 1 has a plurality of neck portions 4a-c, and a plurality of resiliently flexible elements 5a-c arranged between the neck portions 4a-c so as to be resiliently flexed during insertion of the plug 1 into the aperture 18 and so as, thereafter, to retain the plug 1 within the aperture 18. The sealing ring 15 is made of a melt adhesive which, after heating, flows through a gap

between the plug body 2 and the panel edge in order to join the panel 17 with the plug 1 (Col. 3, line 57 to Col. 4, line 15).

The sealing ring 15 does not have a surrounding sealing lip which forms a latching connection with an edge of a hole of a vehicle body. The Examiner refers to element 16 as the sealing lip. However, this element is the edge portion 16 of the flange portion 3. The flange portion 3 is continuous with the body portion 2, which the Examiner refers to as the closure section, (see Col. 3, lines 34-37). The edge portion 16 is not a part of the sealing ring 15, which is softer than the body portion 2. Moreover, there is no latching connection between the outer edge 16 of the flange portion 3 and the panel 17.

In addition, the sealing ring 15 does not have a further sealing lip, which engages the opposite side of the edge of the hole in the vehicle body. The Examiner refers to element 10 as the further sealing lip. However, this element is the lower surface 10 of an outward projection 8 of the neck portion 4a. As seen in Figs. 1-5, the projection 8 is continuous with the body portion 2. The surface 10 of the projection 8 is not a part of the sealing ring 15, which is softer than the body portion 2.

Thus, claim 1 is not anticipated by Andrews. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered and the application allowed.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this  
amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

  
James L. Tarolli  
Reg. No. 36,029

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL,  
& TUMMINO L.L.P.  
1300 East Ninth Street, Suite 1700  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
Phone: (216) 621-2234  
Fax: (216) 621-4072  
Customer No.: 26,294